AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** An ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition suitable for administration to a vertebrate host which comprises:

(a) a polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component comprising at least one polynucleotide encoding at least one antigen, such that introduction of said ~~polynucletide~~polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component into said vertebrate host results in expression of a biologically effective amount of said antigen or antigens so as to induce a prophylactic or therapeutic immune response;

(b) a protein antigen ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component comprising at least one protein antigen selected from the group consisting of model protein antigens and ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic protein antigens; and

(c) a mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant,

~~wherein~~ said composition produced by a method comprising preincubating or subsequently mixing said mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant ~~is preincubated or subsequently mixed~~ with said at least one protein antigen ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component prior to formulating with said polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component.

2. **(Currently amended)** The ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition according to claim 1 wherein said mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant is an aluminum salt or a calcium salt.

3. **(Currently amended)** The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition according to claim 2 wherein said aluminum or calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxyphosphate, phosphate-treated aluminum hydroxide, calcium phosphate, calcium hydroxyphosphate, and phosphate-treated calcium hydroxide.

4. **(Currently amended)** The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition according to claim 1 wherein said group of model protein antigens range from acidic isoelectric point (IEP) proteins to alkaline IEP proteins.

5. **(Currently amended)** The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition according to claim 1 wherein said group of ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic protein antigens ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of a surface protein or a core protein of Hepatitis B virus (HBV), a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria *Clostridium tetani* (a tetanus toxoid), a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria

Clostridium botulinus (a botulinus toxoid), and~~/or~~ a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (a diphtheria toxoid).

6. **(Currently amended)** The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition according to claim 1 wherein said group of ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic protein antigens comprises protein antigens derived from inactivated poliovirus.

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently amended)** A kit comprising an ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition as defined in claim 1 in a unit dose form for administration to a vertebrate recipient.

9. **(Currently amended)** A method of ~~using~~ preincubating or subsequently mixing a mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant as a component in a combined DNA/protein-based ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition as defined in claim 1, comprising preincubating or subsequently mixing the mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant with said at least one protein antigen ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component prior to being formulated with said polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component.

10. **(Currently amended)** An ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition suitable for administration to a human host which comprises:

(a) a polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component comprising at least one polynucleotide encoding at least one antigen, such that introduction of said ~~formulation~~ polynucleotide immunogenic component into said ~~vertebrate~~ human host results in expression of a biologically effective amount of said antigen or antigens so as to induce a prophylactic or therapeutic immune response;

(b) a protein antigen ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component comprising at least one protein antigen selected from the group consisting of model protein antigens and ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic protein antigens; and

(c) a mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant,

wherein said mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant is preincubated or subsequently mixed with said at least one protein antigen ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic component prior to formulating with said polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~immunogenic component.

11. **(Currently amended)** A kit comprising an ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition as defined in claim 1 in a unit dose form for administration to a human recipient.

12. (**Currently amended**) A method for preparing ~~a~~the ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition according to claim 1, wherein a mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant is preincubated or subsequently mixed with at least one protein antigen ~~vaccine~~immunogenic component prior to formulating with a polynucleotide ~~vaccine~~immunogenic component.